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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Sub-Commission on Prevention
of Discrimination and
Protection of Minorities
Forty-ninth session
Agenda item 3

COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION OF THEMATIC ISSUES RELATING
TO THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

Mr. Ali Khan, Mr. Bossuyt, Mr. Boutkevitch, Mr. Chernichenko,
Ms. Daes, Mr. Eide, Mr. El-Hajjé, Mr. Guissé, Mr. Fan, Mr. Fix,
Ms. Forero Ucros, Ms. Gwanmesia, Mr. Hatano, Mr. Joinet,
Mr. Khalil, Mr. Lindgren, Mr. Maxim, Ms. Mbonu, Ms. McDougall,
Mr. Mehedi, Mrs. Palley, Mr. Park, Ms. Warzazi and Mr. Yimer:
draft resolution

1997/... Racism and racial discrimination

The Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities,

Recalling its resolution 1996/8 of 23 August 1996, in which the Sub-Commission expressed its full support for the convening, as soon as possible, of a world conference to combat racism and racial discrimination,

Welcoming Commission on Human Rights resolution 1997/74 of 18 April 1997, in which the Commission recommended that the General Assembly convene a world conference on racism and racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance not later than the year 2001 and noted the importance of taking a gender perspective into account throughout the preparation of the conference,

Welcoming also Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/38, in which the Council endorsed the call for the General Assembly to convene a world

conference on racism and related intolerance not later than the year 2001 and expressed the view that the conference itself should be action-oriented, with a focus on practical measures to eradicate racism,

Welcoming further General Assembly resolution 50/136 of 21 December 1995, in which the Assembly decided that the international community in general and the United Nations in particular should give the highest priority to programmes for combating racism and racial discrimination, and Assembly resolution 51/81 of 12 December 1996 in which the Assembly expressed its regret at the lack of interest, support and financial resources for the Third Decade to Combat Racial Discrimination and Racial Discrimination and its Programme of Action,

Expressing its gratitude to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination for recommending future Sub-Commission studies that could usefully contribute to the work of the Committee,

Noting with grave concern the persistence of racism and the emergence of new forms of racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, including new policies based on racial, religious, ethnic, cultural and national superiority or exclusivity,

Alarmed, moreover, at the increasingly violent forms of racism and racial discrimination in different parts of the world which constitute a grave threat to the building of a social order where all human rights can be realized,

Recognizing, in particular, that the 400-year tragedy of plantation slavery in the Americas continues to be felt throughout the hemisphere, and that African diaspora communities in the Americas continue to suffer from the legal, political and economic legacies of the slave trade, so that today Black communities in the Americas are among the poorest of the poor and poverty is an immutable fact of life for the majority of peoples of African descent living in the Americas,

Conscious that there exists a connection between the growing problem of racism and racial discrimination and global social and economic developments, including the widening gap between rich and poor within and between countries,

Deeply concerned that the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination has remained largely unimplemented,

Convinced that the increasing danger of racism and racial discrimination must be met by a concerted response by the international community

commensurate with the threat posed to the realization of the objective of the Charter of the United Nations to promote universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all,

Recalling the two World Conferences to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, held at Geneva in 1978 and 1983,

Convinced that the convening of a third world conference to combat racism and racial discrimination in the near future would send a clear signal of the determination of the world community to deal decisively with the scourge of racism and would be an important opportunity for developing comprehensive, action-oriented strategies to combat racism and racial discrimination,

1. Encourages States that have not yet ratified the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination to do so, with a view to eradicating all forms of racial discrimination within their territories and appeals to States parties to the Convention to submit their reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in a timely manner;

2. Calls upon Member States to contribute generously to the Trust Fund for the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to take every measure, including those approved by the General Assembly in its resolutions 48/91 of 20 December 1993 and 49/146 of 23 December 1994 and in the programme budget relating to the activities of the Third Decade, to ensure the implementation of the recommendation by the General Assembly to establish a focal point on racism within the Centre for Human Rights for the coordination of activities under the Third Decade;

4. Calls upon the Working Group on Minorities to consider how the Sub-Commission in its future work might usefully address the continuing legal, political and economic legacies of the African slave trade, as experienced by Black communities throughout the Americas;

5. Expresses its full support for the convening of a world conference to combat racism and racial discrimination not later than the year 2001, as recommended by the Commission on Human Rights in its resolution 1997/74 and the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1997/38;

6. Calls upon Member States to respond positively to the proposal to convene a world conference to combat racism and racial discrimination;

7. Confirms its readiness to contribute actively at every stage of the preparations for a world conference to combat racism and racial discrimination;

8. Requests the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to submit to the Commission on Human Rights a report on the status of preparations for the world conference to combat racism and racial discrimination and the ways and means in which the Sub-Commission and other relevant bodies can contribute to the tasks the Commission proposed be entrusted to it as the preparatory committee for the world conference to combat racism and racial discrimination;

9. Expresses its belief that the world conference to combat racism and racial discrimination should carefully consider the complicated interplay of discrimination based on race and discrimination based on other grounds, such as gender;

10. Proposes to hold in 1998, jointly with the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, without financial implications, an expert seminar that will explore in depth, inter alia, the issues put forward by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination for further study by the Sub-Commission (see E/CN.4/Sub.2/1997/31), and determines, in addition, to continue to explore other opportunities to collaborate with and support the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination;

11. Resolves that the Sub-Commission should strive in all of its work to include disaggregated data on the extent to which direct or indirect discrimination and violations of economic, social or cultural rights may be linked to racial, ethic or gender distinctions;

12. Invites all organizations and bodies of the United Nations, and particularly the special procedures of the Commission on Human Rights, to the extent appropriate within their mandates, to include an assessment of race and ethnicity factors in the conduct of their respective programmes of work, including all reporting under international human rights instruments and mechanisms;

13. Notes the work of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and calls

upon both Member States and the Secretary-General to provide the Special Rapporteur, without delay, with all necessary assistance and resources to enable him to carry out his full mandate;

14. Takes note with satisfaction of the recommendations adopted by the Seminar on Immigration, Racism and Racial Discrimination organized by the High Commissioner/Centre for Human Rights from 5 to 9 May 1997, requests that the recommendations be widely distributed, and expresses the hope that the Commission's working group of intergovernmental experts on the protection of the human rights of migrants will take the conclusions and recommendations of the Seminar into consideration during its deliberations;

15. Decides to give full attention to these issues at its fiftieth session under the same agenda item.

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